

Reply to Final Office Action of January 11, 2006
Amendment Dated: February 10, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/608,467
Attorney Docket No.: H0003936

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 11 2006, requesting election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby elects to prosecute the invention of Group 2, represented by claims 21-32 (not 22-32, noted in the Office Action). The election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

The election is made without traverse. Claims 1-20 and 33 of the invention of Group 2, are thus withdrawn from consideration and the status is shown as such in the listing of claims above.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and consideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the fact that the text of Page 10 of the specification originally submitted, appears to be missing in the full text made available to the public on the world-wide web. The text in that page is included below for the Examiner's convenience:

Preferably, in the embodiment of the present invention, each line 28 includes a valve 29 to control the flow of dilution water. In this arrangement, the first control action to vary the magnitude of the control response comprises individual adjustment via conventional actuators at each valve 29 to control the volume of dilution water 5 through each actuator. The second control action to vary the footprint of the control response at each actuator involves controlling the pressure of injection of the dilution water delivered to each stock flow actuator 25. Controlling the pressure of injection of the dilution water controls the degree of mixing of the stock in the head box, which tends to change the apparent consistency profile of the stock. Global 10 adjustment of the pressure of the dilution water is achievable by changing the pressure in dilution header 27 relative to pressure of stock in actuators 25. Individual adjustment of the pressure to a particular stock flow actuator 25 is achieved by controlling an actuator in the form of a pump or regulator in each line 28.

By way of further example, the method and system of the present invention finds application in other aspects of the paper-making process apart from the initial establishment of the paper basis weight.

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In the case of the press and calendaring sections of a paper-making machine, 20 steam may be added to the paper sheet under manufacture by a steam box. The steam condenses on the sheet to release its thermal energy to the sheet. The present invention finds application in a modified steam box arrangement. Referring to Figure 2, there is shown schematically a view of a steam box 30, which extends in the cross-machine direction adjacent sheet 8, which is traveling in the direction 25 indicated by arrow 6 under the influence of a rotating roll 7. Each steam box 30 defines a plurality of control zone 32 or "slices" of sheet 8 within which the steam box is able to control the delivery of steam to the sheet. As in conventional steam box equipment, a source of steam 34 delivers steam to steam box 30 via a steam supply manifold 36 that extends in the cross-machine direction. A sensor (not

(Page 10 of the specification, as originally filed)

Appropriate correction is respectfully requested.

All the rejections are thus believed to be overcome and continuation of examination is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Mr. Anthony Miologos at 602-313-5683 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,



February 10, 2006

Date

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